

gence and knowledge of conditions which it might well be wished were exhibited by American writers when dealing with British affairs.

HEARS THE BELL BUT DOES NOT
SEE THE STEEPLE.

Gov. Glasscock, of West Virginia, is another public official who has seen the light. But the light is a little too strong for his vision as yet. He is advocating a production tax on natural gas. But in a statement recently issued he says:

"If the builders of this state had set apart an insignificant portion, only, of the mineral resources of the state, to be used for school purposes, that is, if they had provided for leasing the mineral lands and using the rentals for school purposes, an irreducible school fund could have been established, the interest from which would have furnished a large percentage of the money to conduct the schools of the state for generations to come.

"We are told that it is too late to do this; that the state can no longer set aside or reserve unto itself any portion or part of the mineral lands of the state. It is not too late, however, to adequately tax our mineral resources, and especially natural gas. Why would it not be advisable to levy a tax upon natural gas for school purposes only, the same to go into the irreducible school fund until the principal reached an amount sufficient to produce annually, in the way of interest, a large percentage of the necessary taxes needed for school purposes. If the taxes were utilized for this purpose future generations would realize some of the benefits of the mineral resources of the state with which the Creator has so bountifully blessed us, and from which to-day the state is receiving in taxes a mere bagatelle."

It seems not to have occurred to the governor that the advantages that could have been retained by the State by leasing these oil and mineral lands, can now be recovered by taxing them according to their value. A "production tax" is worse than inadequate as a remedy.

LATER CORRESPONDENCE.

OPPOSES INDEPENDENT POLITICAL
ACTION.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

For reasons which I set out at considerable length to the committee having the matter in charge, I am strongly opposed to the organization of a straight Single Tax party. To organize an Iowa branch of the party, for example, would be an absolute impossibility, and I fear you New Yorkers are letting your impatience get the better of your judgment. The tremendous strides which our faith has made in England have been accomplished by working within the lines of existing parties. Our work now is essentially missionary in its nature, and, in my judgment, we can make more converts by using molasses than by trying the vinegar remedy.

D. K. LORIMER.

Sioux City, Iowa.

FAVORS INDEPENDENT POLITICAL
ACTION.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I am pleased to know that after thirty years of boosting the other fellows into office we have come to the conclusion that it is time to let go of our boot straps. I am reminded of Bill Nye's saying that after helping to boost the tariff for many years he found that he had to turn to the work of boosting the mortgage off his farm.

Politicians will promise you everything and give you nothing. The other fellow nominates and we help to elect them. That is the reason so many fellows fail to vote because politics is such a jumble and legislation such a farce.

We need a thorough general organization and a political party that will stand for years if necessary, and in cases where no party will adopt our platform or any part of it, run our own candidates. Just a practical working organization, not an office seeking machine. A sort of political club or big stick to keep the other fellows in line or get them out of the way.

But I think that we ought to include